



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®  
Tulsa District

# TULSA

## DISTRICT RECORD

November/December 2004  
Vol. 28, No. 5

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Restores Rails**  
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Col. Miroslav Kurka  
District Commander

## Commander's Corner

After five months in Tulsa, I am starting to understand not only the breadth but also some of the depth of what we do. The more that I see and learn, the more I have come to appreciate the dedication and expertise that characterizes our Tulsa Team. I am proud to serve with all of you.

Since my last article, we've had a Fiscal New Year. Year end closeout was a joy to experience; we awarded all of our military contracts on time and Civil Works execution was exceptional. We did this while also implementing P2.

We are now in FY 05, so where's the money? Congress passed the omnibus FY 05 Appropriation Bill on Nov. 20 which the president is expected to sign soon. From first glance, it appears that FY 05 will be a good year for military construction, general investigations, and operations and maintenance. Construction general funds will be a little tight but adequate. Please do not spend any time worrying about that. Instead, channel

your energy toward executing the dollars that we do have. This is absolutely critical for this year and for FY 06. My intent is to aggressively execute our program and obligate all SWT FY 05 funds and any other USACE funds that cannot be executed elsewhere by other districts. Let's go for absolutely no carryover in FY 05.

In addition to aggressively executing, FY 05 will be a year in which we implement a Tulsa District Strategic Plan. This plan will be part of an overall Southwestern Division Regional Operations Plan. In a few weeks we will publish a "White Paper" that lays out a strategic vision for the Tulsa District.

Together with our sister districts and SWD, we are looking at how we should approach regionalization. Within this environment of change, we are also facing continuing challenges of maintaining our infrastructure and expert workforce with relatively flat budgets and increasing retirements. We are also challenged to continue providing the higher levels of support to our customers and sponsors that they deserve.

This time of great change is also a time of great opportunity. With everything that is happening around us, we have the ability to make positive changes and take control of our own destiny. Our plans must first and foremost protect and develop our most valuable assets – our workforce. To protect that workforce, we must ensure adequate funding for planning, construction, operations, and maintenance. We must also ensure our programs are flexible enough to absorb funding fluctuations without the need to involuntarily reduce permanent employees.

Although the exact plans for regionalization are still to be developed, the SWD Board of Directors is pursuing a concept of *Regional Interdependence*. Under this concept, districts will retain responsibility for geographic customers,

project management and delivery, and for employee development. Regional staffs would focus on developing processes and monitoring the use of resources. The primary processes toward interdependence would be:

1. *Enabling of project managers to better employ cross-boundary assets and expertise;*
2. *Constraining of district growth where workload expands; and*
3. *A longer-term strategy of directing investment in specialization.*

Additionally, Col. Walters from Little Rock and I have discussed developing pilot projects to move regionalization forward. I am excited about the opportunity to develop a plan for the future that will increase our flexibility and increase the opportunities for our workforce. I look forward to publishing the "Tulsa District White Paper" and to discussing its contents with you during my visits to your workplaces.

The holiday season is here. Appropriately, we took time in November to thank and salute our veterans – many of you now are on the receiving end of that exchange after your service in Iraq. We also took a long weekend in November to recognize our many blessings at Thanksgiving. And we lace the whole month of December with the holiday spirit, the Army-Navy Game (Beat Navy!!), football bowl games, school vacation time, and culminate the whole season with the beginning of a new year.

We have all worked very hard these last five months. Enjoy the natural slow down in tempo that comes in December. Spend time doing things you enjoy with family and friends. Have fun – you've earned it.

### ***Tulsa District Record***

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The *Tulsa District Record* is an unofficial publication authorized by AR 360-1. Contents are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army, or Tulsa District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. It is published monthly using offset lithography. Contributions of articles, graphics and photographs are encouraged. All manuscripts are subject to editing. Printed circulation: 1,700.

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*The contractor is drilling the hole for the high capacity rock anchor.*

# Tying Down the Existing Spillway at Canton Lake

**By Randel Mead**  
*Dam Safety Section*

Canton Dam is the fourth oldest dam in Tulsa District. It was constructed from December 1940 to January 1948, with a halt during World War II.

The dam consists of an earth embankment about three miles long and a 786-foot concrete spillway. The spillway has sixteen 40-foot by 25-foot tainter gates. During the second periodic inspection of Canton Dam in 1973, questions were raised about the sliding stability of the concrete spillway.

Many investigations and analyses have been conducted over the past 30 years. The latest analysis indicates the spillway could slide downstream if high pool were to occur. As a result, the top of the flood pool has been lowered 12 feet.

The most common and widely accepted method to fix a dam with a sliding stability deficiency is to tie it down using high capacity rock anchors. These consist of multi-strand tendons, and each strand has a design load of 35,200 pounds.

A total of 1,358 strands – or a total force of 47.8 million pounds – is needed to anchor the spillway. The anchors are installed by drilling a hole through the existing spillway deep into the rock below. A continuous corrugated plastic pipe is grouted into the hole to provide corrosion protection for the

anchor. The anchor is placed inside the corrugated pipe, and the bottom 40 feet of the anchor is grouted into the pipe and rock. The anchor is tensioned to the design load and locked off at the anchor head. The remaining portion of the anchor is grouted in the pipe and rock. A non-shrink grout is placed over the anchor head, and it is finished flush with the spillway surface.

Tulsa District initiated a four-phase program to investigate and design the rock anchors in early FY 03. First, an investigation was conducted to determine how big each anchor could be and how deep they needed to be installed. The investigation consisted of six core holes and 10 test anchors.

We discovered the rock below Canton Dam was highly disturbed. Thousands of years ago, an inland sea deposited a thick layer of salt above a thick layer of gypsum. This salt dissolved and was carried away in the gypsum a long time ago. As the salt dissolved, the rock above it collapsed into sinkholes.

As a result, the rock near the surface is highly disturbed and very weak while the deeper rock has recompacted and regained strength. We determined the anchors need to

be located 100 to 140 feet below the existing spillway weir.

During the next phase, four core holes were drilled through the spillway weir and two full-scale test anchors were constructed in the spillway. The purpose of this phase was to determine the final size of the anchors and identify potential problems during the construction of the anchors. The largest anchor installed was 32 strands and was tested up to 1.5 million pounds.

The contractor had a lot of difficulty with the soft rock below the spillway, and many lessons were learned during this phase. Mactec and Hayward Baker were the contractors used during these first two phases. The next phase was the numerical modeling of the spillway and anchors to determine the optimum size, number, and location of each anchor and the preparation of the Design Documentation Report.

The final phase was the preparation of plans and specifications. Tulsa District partnered with Huntington District for the last two phases. Huntington District has extensive expertise in the use of rock anchors, and we used one of their architect/engineer contracts with FMSM of Lexington, Ken., to perform the analysis and design.

All four phases were completed in less than two years. The construction phase of the project is ready to advertise and awaiting funding.



# Reconstruction restores railroads

## *Iraq Republic Railway a mixed bag of challenges*

By Ross Adkins

*U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Gulf Region Division*

Railroads in Iraq were a multinational construction effort long before the current restoration effort began. Construction was started in the late 1800s by Imperialist Germany. After the British invasion in the early 1900s, they engineered and began construction of a railroad patterned after their narrow-gauge system.

When Iraq became independent, it enlisted construction help from Russia, Korea, Brazil, and others. Rails now run nearly 1,263 miles, from Mosul in the north to Basrah in the south. The construction diversity created a mix of track standards. In some cases, to get from one point to another, shipments would have to be unloaded and reloaded to travel on the different track sizes.

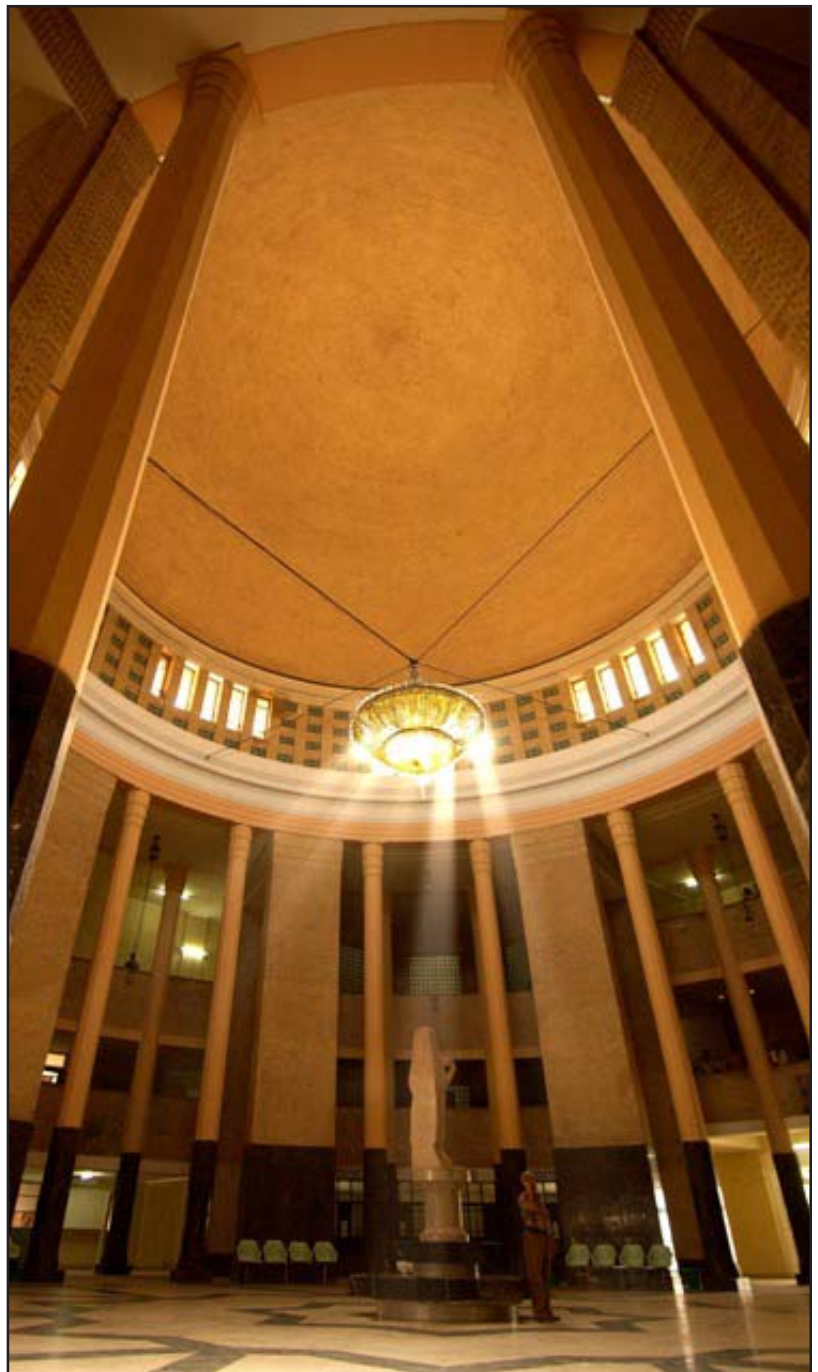
Today, the Ministry of Transportation considers standardizing, reviving, and modernizing the railroad a vital recovery link for Iraq. Restoration by the ministry and multinational agencies including the Corps is underway at the three main railroad stations at Mosul, Baghdad, and Basrah and at 28 of the nearly 130 small stations across Iraq. Rehabbing the stations will cost more than \$55 million, said Safa Shubat, an engineer familiar with both U.S. and Iraqi railroads.

Martin Sanders, senior project manager for Gulf Region Division's Projects and Contracting Office, said, "Presently, trains are controlled by hand switches on the ground, and trains receive clearances from each station to precede onward by radio – a slow process, but necessary given the fact that there is no automated signaling system and most of the system is single track."

Shubat said the fiber optic installation needed for a modern railway communication system is being considered. "Much of the work we are doing is to upgrade the electrical wiring, air conditioning system, and painting," he said.

Back in its glory days, the state-run railway system employed about 9,000 people, including 500 at the Baghdad station. According to a recent Baghdad newspaper account, more than 500 of those have returned, and more are expected as restoration continues.

"Many more local workers have been employed to perform the upgrades and basic repairs including fixing



*An anti-aircraft gun on the roof of the Baghdad station made the depot a target during the 2003 ousting of the former regime. Modernization is underway and is expected to take about six months. Over the next several months, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will issue approximately \$36 million in contracts to Iraqi firms to renovate about 76 train stations.*

windows and leaks in the roof," Shubat said.

The first post-Saddam-era train in Iraq ran between the southern seaport of Umm Qasr and Basra. It was not long before workers got other trains moving throughout the country, but bridges are still out, and roadbeds need repair before rail traffic can make the complete north-to-south run. Officials estimate the railroad is running at about 10 percent of its former capacity.



# Rusty's report

**Editor's Note:** In November, American forces went on the offensive against concentrations of militants in southern Fallujah. Rusty Roberts, mission specialist at Camp Blue Diamond, wrote this report Nov. 24, the day before Thanksgiving. Camp Blue Diamond is near Ar Ramadi, Iraq. The highway west from Baghdad goes through Fallujah and continues west northwest into Ar Ramadi. In Tulsa District, Roberts, a civil engineer technician, is the senior water sampler for HTRW Design Center.

**A**lthough progress is being made, it is very difficult to show any accomplishment. The local contractors are pulling back because of the insurgents' threats to them and their families. Many of the first cost assessments and contracts have gone down the drain. Buildings that were funded for renovation are now destroyed or damaged so much they have to be demolished. Construction supplies and materials can't get through. The military has been fighting and hasn't had time to escort trucks or equipment. If anything had made it to the site in Fallujah, it was damaged or destroyed.

Water supply and treatment facilities are extremely high priority in Fallujah which is about 40-50 miles west of Baghdad. The hope is things will settle down there in the next couple weeks. Huge tanks are being located for water storage, and a couple of the treatment plants might be renovated. The others are so outdated, substandard, and deteriorated, they need to be replaced. Sewage is about three feet deep in the streets of Sauder City. Efforts are being made to drain it so it can be cleaned up.

Strange as it seems, the practice of paying contractors in cash is in full force. The small local contractors don't, and have never had, a bank account, and don't want one now either. There is a great deal of resistance from the contractors that a bank account be a requirement of the contract. American cash is treasured . . .

Camp Blue Diamond is on the bank of the Euphrates River at the north end of Ramadi. The water runs from west to east. This is no picnic area!!!! The river is basically a flowing sewer.

I thought Thursday was a pretty quiet day until a mortar hit about 50 yards from where I am sitting. Needless to say, it was indeed very loud. I grabbed the helmet and vest and made a run for shelter. Other than the shots that hit the back of the building, it was the closest mortar hit until then. The idiots seem to have taken up residence just across the river now, and this seems to be the bull's eye for them. There is a lot more firing, and it is a lot closer each time. It is almost a stand off whether to hit the bunker and fight off the bug bites you get there or take a chance the idiots shooting will miss you one more time. The sand flea bites can cause leishmaniasis which I'm told is basically a disease that rots your skin and makes it fall off. There is no cure.

Saturday was another "bad night." While at the dining hall and while it was full, a rocket hit across the street. It is amazing how fast hundreds of people can dive and disappear under the tables. The dining area is not a hard structure so everyone

waited a few seconds, then made a run for a concrete building. The rocket didn't kill anyone but did hit a major generator . . .

I have become another "first." The master sergeant here asked me how it was going with the roommates. I told him one of them decided she is allergic to fragrances, and everything I have is scented: soap, lotion, hair products, etc. He said "I'll fix you up; just give me a couple days." The next thing I knew, he was in the men's quarters putting up divider walls. It only took him one day after he "acquired" the wood. I moved from the Olsen's storeroom. I hadn't realized how much like a small town this is. I guess it became the hot topic on this base that the Corps of Engineers now had co-ed billeting. It seems there are no other co-ed facilities here. The Seabees came over to check it out, including the two women. It isn't a hard shelter but I know

it is better. The closest bathroom and shower is still about one-half mile away, but the trailer units with bathrooms are supposed to be here before the war is over.

The weather is getting cooler now. In the mornings, it is jacket cool. The days were really nice until today. The air is so dry all the time. When it rains, most of it

never makes it to the ground before it evaporates. They call it a rain though. Last night, it was an actual rain. Water actually got to the ground, and it was wet when the sun came up. That was great for about three hours; then a sand storm hit. They are really nasty!!!!

I met a young woman that has been hired as a translator. As a child, she went to a private Christian school and graduated from high school in Baghdad. She went to college in Detroit. She speaks fluent English, French, Arabic, and another local language. I hope to have a chance to get her to talk about her childhood, Iraqi life style in detail, and the politics around here. She is the first one I've met that is educated but still has had the exposure and the ability to understand both Iraqi and American culture. We'll see what happens.

The talk around here is that we're going to have corn dogs for Thanksgiving dinner. There were four 18-wheeler trucks carrying food in the convoy line right in front of the truck I was in. One of them was loaded with turkeys and everything for Thanksgiving dinner . . . As we brought the convoy to the gate, The MPs directed all four of the food trucks into a holding area. The bomb dogs sniffed out a big bomb under one of them. They moved it about four miles from the gate and detonated it. This year, in addition to a lot of other things, I'm thankful for bomb sniffing dogs. . .

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***The talk around here is that we're going to have corn dogs for Thanksgiving dinner.***

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*Randall Lewis at the American University site in Afghanistan.*

# Architect Doing ‘Small Part’ for Large Mission

By Carolyn Vadino, Public Affairs Office, Afghanistan Engineer District

**W**eeks after the events of Sept. 11, 2001, Randall Lewis began to absorb what he had been watching unfold on television. Like many Americans, he said he sat in disbelief glued to news reports trying to understand the range of emotions that were building inside of him. From fear to anger to patriotism, he knew he had to do something. So, he picked up the phone and began to call recruiters. Phone call after phone call found him hearing the same thing – that he was too old to join the military. Undeterred, he kept pressing on until he found the answer he was looking for.

So Lewis, a 44-year-old architect with the Tulsa District, devout husband, father, and deacon in the Tulsa Bible Church, volunteered for a tour of duty in Afghanistan.

“After 9/11, I felt an incredible sense of patriotism and wanted to do something about what happened, not expect someone else to. I wanted to do my part,” said

Lewis. “Since I couldn’t join the military, this is what I chose.”

Lewis is currently working on multi-million dollar projects to help stabilize Afghanistan. Based in the Kabul office, along with 50 other civilians and military, his role is to plan new facilities and ensure they are in compliance with Corps standards for design and construction.

“Here, I don’t do as much design work like I might back home, but more of a scope, a prescription for the design,” he said. He is currently working on reviewing a design project to improve security screening at an entry control point at a local U.S. base and will soon be working on the planning of six facilities. He also serves as the facilitator for the lessons learned program, is active in the local Bible study, and helps the children at a local orphanage the district supports.

“What we are doing here is worthwhile. I don’t think I am doing enough; it’s just a small part and little compared to

what others are doing . . .” he said. “This is the least I can do for the U.S.” According to Lewis, what the Corps is doing is helping the Afghans help themselves.

“We aren’t trying to do what we think is best; we are trying to let them determine what they think is best,” he said. “They have to be able to defend themselves. They have to have the infrastructure and means to defend themselves against people that hate freedom.”

And Lewis believes that he can see progress. “The local economy is prospering. There are jobs, work, things you don’t hear about on the news,” he said.

A long way from the calm city areas of Tulsa, or small town of Hamlin, Texas, just outside of Abilene, where he grew up, Lewis describes the Kabul area as chaos in the streets. “It is not war or anything, it is the way people drive,” he said. “It is the hustle and bustle of the city.”

Working in a safe house in Kabul, Lewis rarely gets to leave the area for security reasons. Instead, he mentally catalogs what he sees from the few trips he has taken to project sites, or from what he can see when he looks out the window.

“You miss being able to mix with the common people, freely walking like you do at home,” he said. “I want to know the people, what they think and feel.”

Despite living and working in somewhat claustrophobic conditions, Lewis decided to extend his tour.

“My family fully supported my decision; even though they weren’t happy, they understood the reason I wanted to come here,” he said. “My wife especially understood why I wanted to serve my country. I rely on my faith in God, and they do the same. Over here, I don’t like the idea of having time on my hands, and I like the long hours.”

Lewis says that staying busy helps with the separation. His 12-hour days are typically spent doing planning studies and making recommendations and reviewing users’ building programs for his clients, which include the Army, Air Force, and USAID.

He added one last thought about working in Afghanistan. “The Corps, like any government agency has its problems, but these moments – 9/11, Iraq – are our time to shine,” he said. “And I am glad to be a part of it.”



# Corps builds toward terror-free Afghanistan, one brick at a time



*Part of the ANA team inspecting the bottom of a septic tank excavation.*

**Editor's Note:** Tulsa District's Don Hendrix is serving as a construction representative in the Kandahar Resident Office in Afghanistan

**This article is a compilation of news releases and articles by the American Forces Press Service and Maj. Donovan Ollar, P.E., resident engineer, Kandahar Resident Office**

**R**emnants of former Soviet bases – with the shells of their buildings, near bombed-out tanks, minefields, and leftover munitions – are scattered over the mountainous landscape in Afghanistan. For a country that has been at war for more than 20 years, it is an all-too-familiar scene.

Building modern-day facilities for the newly trained Afghan National Army has become a primary mission for the Afghanistan Engineer District. Everything in a contingency environment is difficult, and construction is no different. Procuring materials and finding skilled labor, proper equipment, and heavy machinery are daily challenges. Further complicating these challenges is the state of disrepair of the road network. In Afghanistan, driving 250 miles can take days in a loaded tractor trailer.

Supporting Combined Forces Command Afghanistan's efforts to win the war on terror, the Corps is spearheading a comprehensive infrastructure program for the reception and training of recruits and subsequent stabilization of up to 70,000 ANA soldiers. Sites now being built and those completed since the start of the program provide facilities for 56,000 troops, at a cost of \$575 million.

The program, which began in 2003, includes construction, rehabilitation and refurbishment of barracks, dining facilities, administration centers, clinics, motor pools, training ranges, and support facilities. It also includes building a military hospital, military academy, entrance processing station, and training center. The United States, Taiwan, and the United Kingdom have funded the program to date.

"The Afghan National Army program is a critical component to our strategy to establish a safe and secure environment in Afghanistan that is free of terrorism," said Col.

John B. O'Dowd, commander of the Corps Afghanistan District. "The Corps is honored that our engineering experience, gained in the accomplishment of our civil works and military construction program back home is providing these dedicated soldiers with the quality facilities they deserve," he continued.

In addition to creating comfortable living conditions for the ANA, the Corps manages the construction of power plants, water supply, and wastewater treatment facilities for each site. The new bases are located in key areas such as Kabul (Pol-e-charki, Darualman, Kabul Military Training Center), Herat, Gardez, Kandahar and Mazar-e Sharif. Combined, the installations total 1,300 acres with more than 600 major structures. Seven sites are under construction.

"This is the first time in the history of Afghanistan that we have the infrastructure, the barracks, and the headquarters in one installation," said Brig. Gen. Mohamad Akhtar Hamdam, the ANA's garrison commander at Darualaman. "We are very pleased to have similar facilities used by other military all around the world."

According to Hamdam, the approximately 3,000 ANA soldiers at his base are from all over the country, some from such remote places that they have never lived with running water or electricity. He ensures they are trained on how to properly care for themselves and their new surroundings. . .

Before starting construction, the Corps oversaw the de-mining and removal of unexploded ordnance left over at each site. According to the U.N. Mine Action Centre in Afghanistan, there are more than 872 square kilometers of suspected mined land and an additional 450 square kilometers of land thought to be contaminated by UXO, making Afghanistan one of the most heavily mined countries in the world.

# Gunners Inn finished just in time



## From the Mailbox



**Editor's Note:** *The Gunners Inn Project Delivery Team won a PDT of the Quarter award for their work on this project complicated by funding issues and an ever-increasing scope of work.*

**By Brenda J. Spencer-Ragland**

*Director, Morale, Welfare, Recreation and Family Programs, Fort Sill*

The Gunners Inn project completely renovated a drab, inefficient, bar and kitchen facility into premier catering accommodations. The goal of the Non-Appropriated Funds design/build project was to create a facility that could accommodate both casual luncheons and black-tie events for up to 750 patrons at one time.

Fort Sill was in dire need of a suitable catering facility. In fact, many military patrons were being referred off post for large-scale events because the installation simply could not accommodate them. The renovation for an upscale catering facility was a definite validated and high demand project, and the eventual award and renovation would allow the MWR program to achieve Army financial benchmarks while supporting the needs of the military community.

Two additional projects were found to be needed at the same time the interior renovation was taking place, a roof replacement and a sanitary sewer system upgrade.

The gross cost of the project was \$1.4 million in NAF funding and \$200 thousand in APF funding. The Gunners Inn Renovation project was expected to be awarded and construction beginning in May 2003, and Beneficial Occupancy Date was November 2003. Unfortunately, due to the many problems associated with the award of two separate contracts with two separate fundings (one covering the interior renovation and the other for the roof and sewer), the occupancy date was delayed until mid March 2004.

Success was realized, and the renovation was completed on March 22. Some Project Delivery Team members rolled up their sleeves and worked right along with the contractors to take care of last-minute details.

That same night, the installation hosted the biggest event in Lawton/Fort Sill by serving more than 550 patrons a full-service, catered meal in their new premier catering facility. Well over 25,000 patrons have been served since then.

Dear Tulsa Team,

Your generous contribution to St. Thomas Hospice in memory of my husband Vaclav is very much appreciated.

The staff and volunteers of St. Thomas do a wonderful job of caring, while preserving the dignity of the patient.

I am grateful that I was able to have my husband at home, where he wanted to be and that they enabled him to spend his last days in relative comfort.

Thank you,  
Paula Peroutka  
(Col. Kurka's mother)

Dear Ones:

Please allow me to take this means to thank each one of you, my extended family, for your moral and emotional support during these stressful times in life when my wife, Pat, suddenly passed away.

To you in the district office and all of our project personnel and retirees, you were indeed very inspirational to me and my family. I will always cherish your thoughts, calls, and cards that I received. With you being by my side, I know I can move forward from day to day. How grateful I am for each of you.

Material possessions I have none but I consider myself the richest person in this world because of you my dear extended family.

With grateful heart,  
Reggie Kikugawa

Letter to the Editor:

It has been a few years since retirement (13+). I have had a most enjoyable retirement and at age 70 have a lifestyle that lets me continue my sailing to the Bahamas with my sailboat, plus travels to Europe and Russia. I had the opportunity in 2000 to be the guest of a Russian family for several months in St. Petersburg. It was a unique experience. I found the people to be very thoughtful and kind, and St. Petersburg is one of the most beautiful cities of the world.

Health & Happiness to All!  
William Horry

To our Coworkers at the Tulsa Office,

I just wanted to send you a quick thank you to let you know how much your donations mean to both the USACE employees here in

*Continued on page 13*



## Resources for Speakers



Visit the team page to find the Unity of Command slides to be used at the beginning of every presentation. The Public Affairs Office has a pocket-size, tri-fold brochures with general information about Tulsa District, color brochures about the Corps Civil Works mission, CDs telling the Restore Iraqi Oil story, and heavy color folders with matching paper for use in preparing meeting packets.

## Streamlined system coming

By D. Michael Bailey, Director

Civilian Personnel Activity Center, Southwestern Division

The new National Security Personnel System will make our existing personnel system easier for both employees and supervisors to understand and use. At this time, we are waiting to hear if the Southwestern Division and its districts were selected to be among the first to migrate to the new, simplified personnel system. If so, the change could come as early as July 2005, but only if all the necessary steps to train and transition to the new system have been taken successfully.

Pay banding is a likely feature of the new personnel system because it was a key factor in the success of Department of Defense demonstration projects over the last quarter century, including our own Corps demo at the Engineer Research and Development Center. Under pay banding, occupations and positions can be assigned to broad occupational groups and broad pay levels, simplifying the many grades and steps of the current general schedule system.

DoD established the NSPS Program Executive Office last April to oversee development of the new system. At this time, the office is reviewing options developed by working groups from July through September of this year. When the PEO completes its review and selects the best options, a draft of the new NSPS will be published in the Federal Register for public comment.

Mary Lacey, a Navy engineer and member of the Senior Executive Service, heads the dynamic PEO. In a recent interview, Ms. Lacey was asked why she is really excited about coming to work every morning. She responded, "Because we're doing something good for the people. We are taking a very complex, cumbersome system that's developed over the years, and we're going to streamline it in a way that will make it better for the employees of the department."

We will keep you well advised as NSPS develops. If you would like to read ahead, please browse DoD's NSPS website at <http://www.cpms.osd.mil/nsps/index.html>.

## Sheppard events highlight Corps work

Friday, Nov. 5, was a busy day for Sheppard Air Force Base and Tulsa District's Sheppard Resident Office. Two afternoon events highlighted some of the Corps work at the base.

Dignitaries, including Col. Kurka, broke ground on the Airfield Operations Complex. This \$10.9 million contract consolidates the current Base Operations and the Air Traffic Control function into one location and replaces the ATC tower.

A ribbon cutting ceremony was also held to formally dedicate the new 600-person dormitory, part of the FY 02 \$17 million Dorm/Dining Facility Project. Col. Kurka, Ralph Hight, Clif Warren, John Forslund, and the entire Sheppard Resident office attended the event.



Above, gathering at Barnes Hall for its official ribbon cutting.

Left, breaking ground for the Airfield Operations Complex; Col. Kurka is furthest right.

# Tenkiller project enters second phase



*Workers place concrete for the bridge deck approach slab on the east side of the auxiliary spillway.*

Phase II construction of Tenkiller Lake's auxiliary spillway is underway. It began with building a temporary detour road over the new spillway. Traffic has been diverted to the detour while a new bridge upstream of the auxiliary spillway is completed. Electricians are installing generators and running conduit across the existing spillway to the auxiliary one. Piezometers are being installed on the upstream side of earth dam to monitor the blasting that will excavate the approach channel.

Once the piezometers are in place, the rock burden in front of the new spillway will be blasted away to create the approach channel connecting it to the main body of the lake. Aaron Goldner, quality assurance representative, expects the blasting to begin in December 2004.

As Phase II continues, a draw down of the lake will be necessary because the elevation where the approach channel will connect with the main body of the lake is six feet below Tenkiller's normal pool level of 632 feet above mean sea level. The draw down is to take place following the 2005 recreation season, beginning in November 2005. Its timing and execution have been planned to minimize impacts to lake users and businesses.

The new spillway is designed to handle the Probable Maximum Flood.

## Travel Guidelines



### Look and Listen - Be Smart - Be Vigilant

Security awareness is everyone's responsibility. To ensure that your travel is safe, secure, and efficient, take time to make security awareness an integral part of your travel experience.

#### General Guidelines

- Be aware of suspicious activity in and around your immediate surroundings. Inform the proper authorities if you are concerned about an unattended item or suspicious activity. Be extra careful if you work on your laptop. Working takes your attention away from your surroundings.
  - Describe suspicious device. Visual check only. Do NOT touch object
  - Do NOT use your cell phone within 50 feet of a suspicious item
- Remember to control all carry-on bags and keep your items and tickets with you at all times. Medicines, cash, jewelry, business papers and valuables should be packed in carry-on bags.
- Never leave anything unattended as it could be subjected to tampering and/or theft.
- Never carry anything for another person, especially for someone you do not know.

#### Before the Airport

- Do NOT pack or bring prohibited items to the airport.
- Place valuables in carry-on baggage only.
- Avoid wearing shoes, clothing, jewelry, and accessories that contain metal and may set off the alarm on the metal detector.
- Put all undeveloped film and cameras with film in your carry-on baggage. Checked baggage screening equipment will damage undeveloped film.
- Declare firearms and ammunition to your airline and place it in your checked baggage.
- If you wish to lock your baggage, use a TSA recognized lock.
- Do not bring prohibited lighters and matches to the airport.

#### At the Airport

- Keep your airline boarding pass and government-issued photo ID for each adult traveler available until you exit the checkpoint.
- Place the following items **IN** your carry-on baggage prior to entering the screening checkpoint:

- |                            |                          |                |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| ○ Mobile phones            | ○ Keys                   | ○ Loose change |
| ○ Money clips              | ○ PDAs                   | ○ Lighters     |
| ○ Large amounts of jewelry | ○ Metal hair decorations |                |
| ○ Large belt buckles       |                          |                |

- Take your laptop and video cameras with cassettes **OUT** of their cases. Take **OFF** your outer coat, jacket, or blazer.

# Chief of IM comes on board, opens door



*District's new chief of Information Management Stephen K. Peterson*

Stephen K. Peterson, Tulsa District's new chief of Information Management, feels as if he's back home again. Peterson, a native of McAlester, Okla., holds a Bachelor of Science degree from East Central University at Ada, Okla. He also has a Master's of Business Administration degree, with a study concentration in Management Information Systems, from Avila University in Kansas City, Mo. He is a graduate of the Chief Information Officer Certificate Program at the National Defense University, Information Resources Management College. Peterson fills the position vacated when Hal Capshaw retired earlier this year.

Peterson has worked for the Navy, Air Force, and Army in the fields of nautical navigation, cartography, and information technology.

He has been with the Corps for more than 15 years and is a graduate of both the Leadership Development and the Emerging Leaders programs. He did a developmental assignment as the acting chief of IM at Far East District in Seoul, Korea. Peterson comes to Tulsa from Kansas City District where he has served as the IT master planner and both the deputy and chief of IM.

Peterson says, "It's great to be back home." He says he appreciates Tulsa's size in comparison to Kansas City and is

pleased to be in easy driving distance to McAlester where he still has family. He says the people here are very friendly and approachable.

"The IM staff here is great, although it's small because of recent RIFs," he said. "The Tulsa staff is about a third of what I had in Kansas City, but we have roughly the same mission and workload. Although Tulsa's workforce is a couple of hundred people smaller in size, there are more lake projects and more resident offices. IM supports the IT infrastructure at the various lake projects and resident offices."

Peterson wants people throughout the district to know that he has an open door policy and would like to extend a personal invitation to field folks, operations managers, and resident engineers to feel free to contact him with any concerns. "I've worked 11 years in field offices, and I really identify with them. I know that by the time they call for help, they have exhausted all local resources at their disposal and really need assistance. I want to encourage them to contact me if I can help in any way."

Peterson and his wife, Mona, have a 10-year-old son, Bradley.

## Congratulations!



In October, the Tulsa District Team was presented the 2005 Air Force Materiel Command Design Citation Award at Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio, for the design of the Gateway Dormitory at Tinker Air Force Base.

This project was the first AFMC "Architecturally Significant Project" for the Tulsa Team. Steve Harmon, Military Design Section, represented the district while Dan Pruitt of LWPB Architects and Planners represented the design-build contractor team of McMaster Construction/LWPB. Budget constraints and anti-terrorism requirements made the project particularly challenging.



# Year wraps with impressive stats



How did Tulsa District fare in procurement in FY 04? Quite well, according to Rick Hedrick, chief of Contracting Division. He said, "These are tremendous accomplishments and ones all Contracting Division personnel should be proud of. They are to be commended for their hard work, attention to detail, and dedication." The numbers tell the story.

\$275,460,207 awarded – 13<sup>th</sup> in the Corps and substantially higher than the past few years. (\$235 million in FY 03, \$183 million FY 02, and \$158 million FY 01).

99.3% of dollars competed. (Goal was 98%.)

15.65% of dollars awarded to 8(a) (small, disadvantaged) firms — far exceeding other districts in Southwestern Division.

13.39% of dollars awarded to firms located in Historically Underutilized Business Zones – best in SWD. (Far exceeded goal of 3%)

43.15% of dollars awarded to small business firms. (Goal was 40.4%.)

28.91% of dollars awarded small disadvantaged firms. (Best in SWD and far exceeded goal of 16%.)

1.07% of dollars awarded to service-disabled, veteran-owned small businesses. (Goal was 3%. More realistic goal of % has been set for FY 05.)

5.41% of dollars awarded to women-owned, small business (Best performance ever for Tulsa District; goal was 5.6%.)

98.43% of education dollars awarded to Historically Black Colleges and Universities (Goal was 18.2%.)

## Safety in the trenches

### *And the walls came tumbling down*

Safe construction practices save lives and, according to Bill Hinkle, Safety Office, "The value of a trench box cannot be overstated." That sentiment is made clear in this photo. The seepage collector system repair project at Skiatook Lake requires excavation up to 13 feet deep in wet, unstable soil. In this case, two trench boxes were stacked, providing 12 feet of protection, a practice that paid off when the banks collapsed. A worker was inside the box at the time. Doug Booth, Tulsa Resident Office, is the quality assurance representative on the project.



# Customer Care employee named

Larry Flenniken of Information Management Office is the Customer Care Employee of the Quarter for the third quarter FY 04. His nomination stated:

"Larry has spent numerous hours getting our new Internet Protocol phone system setup and ready for us to convert to. This was not a small task. There were many aspects to consider even before we made the commitment to change to these phones. Larry spent many hours getting our system prepared for the new phones and finally the actual switchover from our current system. After the switchover, his job wasn't completed; he was right there helping customers and troubleshooting any peculiarities we encountered.

"Larry has been the primary intermediary between our contractors and our customers. He insisted on a quality product from the contractors. He was particularly concerned about the echo, which is common with this technology, and refused to accept this system unless they were able to completely remove it. He always maintained a positive and helpful attitude regardless of how many questions or problems we encountered. Our move to the IP telephone system is the first for the Southwestern Division, and we are among the few districts who have ventured out to take on such a challenge.

"Computers and telephones are the tools we all use daily to perform our specific talents. Every person in the Tulsa District building has been impacted with this change. It could have been an ugly mess, but it wasn't. The fact that Tulsa District adopted and successfully installed this new technology is in large part due to Larry's expertise and his desire for the district to be a leader in the information technology field."



**Larry Flenniken**  
Customer Care Employee of the Quarter

## Mailbox

*Continued from page 8*

Kabul, and more importantly, the orphans receiving them. Every time we visit the orphanage, the happiness that the children show as soon as our cars pull up is overwhelming. There are so many children trying to help us unload the boxes that it quickly becomes an obstacle course of clunky army boots and little bare feet.

I can only try to convey the way that second hand clothes, toys, school and art supplies change the lives of these children. Although they don't have much, they make the most of what they do have. Living conditions are clean, and the housemothers are very kind, but there is only

so much one can do when there is no money. Thanks to the monetary donations we've recently received, a clothesline has been installed, the interior of the school has a fresh coat of paint, and efforts are underway to clean and repair a sorely neglected sewage tank which is causing severe health hazards on the premises. Earlier in the year over 30 new windows were installed throughout the orphanage to replace those that were broken and/or missing. Your donations of fabric, sewing supplies, and beauty supplies have been instrumental in teaching the children invaluable skills they may use to seek work when they finish school. Furthermore, the school supplies are always appreciated in order to keep the orphans' education level somewhat constant . . .

Thank you again for your kindness and generosity. You are helping make significant improvements in the quality of life for the children of the Allahudin Orphanage here in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Sincerely,

Sara E. Young (On behalf of  
orphanage volunteers at  
Afghanistan Engineer District Office  
[www.aao-chance.com](http://www.aao-chance.com))

## Need employment verification?

The Department of the Army offers an automated employment verification service that allows you to have your employment and salary verified within a matter of minutes. This fast, secure service is used for mortgage applications, reference checks, loan applications, and apartment leases – anything you need that requires proof of employment. It is quick, accurate, and available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

More information and printable brochures are available at the Civilian Personnel Online homepage at <http://cpol.army.mil/library/benefits/talx>. You may also contact a customer service representative at 1-800-996-7566 (Voice) or 1-800-424-0253 (TTY/Deaf). Automated help is always available; customer service representatives are available 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. CST, Monday-Friday.

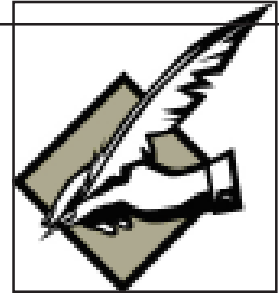
# Commander shares his philosophy, says let's have fun

In November, Col. Miroslav Kurka, district engineer, outlined his leadership philosophy to the workforce. He said his personal mission is to, "build trust, foster open and honest communications, provide leadership, set priorities that focus on people and customers, develop a vision for the district's future, and facilitate increased efficiency in all areas.

In order to accomplish these goals, he plans to use the principles of fairness, trust, communications, leader development, teamwork, taking care of people, risk taking, and having fun.

"I expect all Tulsa District employees to do likewise," he stressed.

## Notes from EEO



Fear of the unknown and lack of knowledge about how to act can lead to uneasiness when meeting a person who has a disability. Remember, a person with a disability is a **person with feelings**. Treat him or her as *you* would want to be treated. You can't always see someone's disability. If a person acts unusual or seems different, **just be yourself**. Let common sense and friendship break down any barriers you may encounter. Following these guidelines may help prevent uncomfortable situations.

### Basic Points of Etiquette

- Avoid asking personal questions about someone's disability. If you must ask, be sensitive and show respect. Do not probe if the person declines to discuss it.
- Be considerate of the extra time it might take for a person with a disability to do or say something.
- Be polite and patient when offering assistance, and **wait** until your offer is accepted. Listen or ask for specific instructions.
- When planning a meeting or other event, try to anticipate specific accommodations a person with a disability might need. If a barrier cannot be avoided, let the person know ahead of time.
- Be respectful of the rights of people with disabilities to use accessible parking spaces.

**More information available at:**  
[www.ucandoit.org](http://www.ucandoit.org)

## "I'm going to Disney World!"

Disaster support missions aren't all mud, debris, long hours, and devastation. Kerri Stark, power action officer, found herself stationed at Disney World in Orlando, Fla., when she responded during the aftermath of the fall hurricanes. She said the acronym DFO now stands for Disney (rather than Disaster) Field Office.

Stark was one of the team dubbed the "Power Puff" gang, the all-female, all-Tulsa-District response team sent to provide power needs at critical facilities.

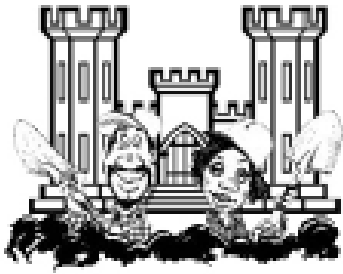
*Kerri Stark, kneeling, is shown with Corps emergency workers and Disney characters at the DFO.*



### Water Safety Dogs

This trio was appropriately dressed for their day at the lake. This shot was captured by Robin Parks at Keystone Lake this fall. She is the new lead ranger there.





## Family News

### Condolences

Frank L. James, retiree, died March 12 of this year.

Melba Markos, retiree, passed away July 30.

Jean Y. (Newman) Zimmerman sent a note to let readers know that her father, H. Yamashita, died on Sept. 8. She wrote, "He lived to a ripe old age of 104, and lived in Honolulu, Hawaii."

Robert Jacob "Bob" Rychel, 95, retired electrical design engineer, died Oct. 6.

Elaine Catherine Miller, 60, former secretary, died Oct. 8.

Bobby Gann, maintenance worker at Fort Gibson, lost his mother, Edith Gann, Oct. 10.

Beth Cruzen's father, Carl Davis, passed away Oct. 10. Cruzen is a park ranger at Fort Gibson Lake Office.

Patricia Ann Mardiece Kikugawa, 75, died Friday, Oct. 15. She was married to retiree, Reggie Kikugawa. She graduated from Norman High School, received a bachelor's degree in Home Economics from the University of Oklahoma, and taught at several schools throughout the state. She served as a home economist demonstrator for

ONG and later as a consultant for Kerr Glass Company. Contributions may be made to Hawaii Baptist Academy Scholarship Fund, 21 Bates St., Honolulu, HI 96817.

Margie Banks, mother of Billy Banks, passed away on Friday, Oct. 15. Billy is the chief of Civil Works Branch, PPMD.

Col. Kurka's stepfather, Vaclav Peroutka, passed away on Sunday, Oct. 17.

Benjamin Wingfield passed away Nov. 4. He was the father of Mike Wingfield, Red River Area environmental specialist.

Gordon K. Barrick, 80, retired from Webbers Falls Lock and Dam, died Nov. 6.

On Nov. 11, Melonie Zincke's father-in-law, Allen Zincke, passed away. Melonie is a budget analyst in Resource Management Office.

Preston Lawson, retiree from Eufaula, passed away Nov 12.

Claudie Kindrick, retired lock and dam operator, passed away Nov. 17. He was one of the original operators on the Oklahoma portion of the McClellan Kerr Navigation System and was assigned to Webbers Falls Lock and Dam 16. Claudie retired in 2003.



## New Additions

Amy and Kirby Leonard welcomed Hayden Scott on Oct. 23 at 6:49 p.m. Amy, a co-op student, is a civil engineering technician.

Mike and Anita Upton are proud to announce the birth of their new granddaughter, Jayden Munn. She was born to their daughter Michelle and husband, Dan Munn. Grandpa Upton works at the Red River Area Office.

Patrick and Shelly Beard are the proud parents of Kane Scott who was born Nov. 22. Patrick is a mechanical engineer in Tulsa Resident Office.

## Reading, 'Riting & Retiring

Eleanor Pontius retired from Public Affairs Office in September 1996, but she is reading more than ever because her husband, Birch Pontius, wrote eight novels in the 15 years between 1988 and 2003.

"Patriots: Going, Going, Gone!" will be the third Pontius book to be published this year. After the author's usual intensive research, he wrote this contemporary mystery-suspense-espionage novel about treason on Washington's Capitol Hill. The plot accurately describes known studies of locales, both foreign and domestic, based on publicized political and international incidents. The publisher is Universe, Barnes & Noble, New York, Lincoln, Shanghai.

In mid-2004, Universe published "Westward Women" about three strong, beautiful women separately headed to rebuild their lives after the U.S. Civil War and Franco-Prussian War. The three young women with emotional charm and endurance help win the West, despite physical conflict.

"Saddle Tramp Marshal," published early this year by Publish America of Baltimore, reflects true Western frontier history of the wild and woolly West. The hero is a former Civil War first sergeant whose murder charge is dropped in exchange for his pursuit of justice as a U.S. Marshal on the Western frontier.





## **Army Civilian Corps Creed**

**I am an Army Civilian – a member of the Army Team**

**I am dedicated to the Army, its Soldiers and Civilians**

**I will always support the mission**

**I provide stability and continuity during war and peace**

**I support and defend the Constitution of the United States and consider it an honor to serve the Nation and its Army**

**I live the Army values of Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity, and Personal Courage**

**I am an Army Civilian**